

# Goddard Toastmasters Oracle



**GSFC Toastmasters  
CLUB 3496, AREA 42, Division D, DISTRICT 36  
January 2012**

<http://toastmasters.gsfc.nasa.gov>

Editors: Javier Ocasio-Perez, Ron Jones, Bigyani Das, and James Peachey

*The mission of Goddard Toastmasters is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every individual member has the opportunity to enhance oral communication and leadership skills and make expert communicators and effective leaders.*

### Our Values

- integrity,
- dedication to excellence,
- service to the member, and
- respect for the individual

### Upcoming Events

1. Toastmaster Training Institute, Jan 14th, 29th and Feb 4th Check at <a href="http://www.district36.org/toastmasters_training_tli">http://www.district36.org/toastmasters_training_tli</a>
2. Club Spring Contest: March 14th
3. Area Contest: Sometimes in March-April 2012
4. Division Contest: Sometimes in April 2012
5. District Spring Conference: May 18-19, 2012
6. Club Election: May 2012

### Meet the 2011-2012 Club Officials

President:	Ron Jones CC
VP-Education:	Bigyani Das DTM
VP-Membership:	Michelle Scott
VP-Public Relations:	Javier Ocasio-Perez CC
Secretary:	Terry Kucera
Treasurer:	Jing Hou
Sergeant-at-Arms:	Nick Collins
Past President:	James Peachey

## Message from the President Goddard Toastmasters

### *Practice makes perfect*

Two years ago, I decided to stop trying to work around my fear of public speaking and face it head on by attending a meeting of the Goddard Toastmasters. Toastmasters International® is an international organization with roots right here at Goddard; training and supporting Goddard employees for the past 39 years. Dr. Smedly, founder of Toastmasters International, explains the program as a way to "Help people improve their communication and leadership skills in a non-threatening environment." I really believe the Goddard Toastmaster

Club takes Dr. Smedly's quote to heart. We have a great group that encourages each other in a non-threatening environment.

I set goals to attend Toastmaster meetings on a regular basis and presented every six weeks. I quickly realized that the more often I spoke, the more comfortable I became speaking in public. Also, with the support of Toastmaster members, fear no longer dominated my speaking. Rather, I started focusing on the subject material. After Toastmasters training and support, I now routinely present at Goddard and regularly speak in front of my 300+ fellow church members. I want to encourage everyone to speak at least every six weeks. Practice makes perfect, if you wait longer than six weeks you will forget

## Let the Spirit Thrive

the advice given to you from your evaluation and mentor. New or existing members, if you do not have a mentor and would like one please contact Bigyani Das or myself.

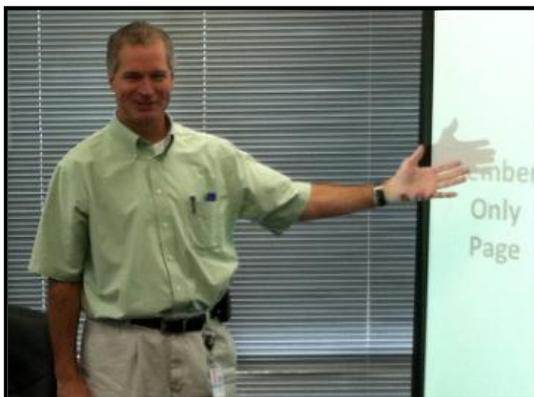
I do not want to forget our leadership training. The Competent Leader Manual takes longer to complete than the Competent Communicator, but does not require as much preparation before the meetings. All you have to do is sign up for one of the meeting roles, bring your Competent Leader Manual to the meeting and give it to someone to evaluate you. The second part of this Toastmasters year, try your best to bring your Competent Leader Manual with you to every meeting. As everyone knows, not all roles are filled before the meetings. Some are filled during the meeting. So, you never know when you attend a meeting whether you will be asked to fill a role. If you do not bring your manual, then you will not get credit.

Finally, I would like to thank your Goddard Toastmasters Executive Team for all the help they have given me. I could not have done my job as President without their help. We are all volunteers and meet once per month. We discuss our Club's business, upcoming events and ideas to improve our Club. Feel free to contact anyone of them if you have questions.

Ronald Jones  
President

### NEWS:

Our President Ron Jones and our Goddard Toastmasters Club was featured in Goddard View([www.nasa.gov/centers/goddard/news/goddard-view.html](http://www.nasa.gov/centers/goddard/news/goddard-view.html)) Volume 7 Issue 9. His article "Practice Makes Perfect" written by Rebecca Elliott can be found on page 11.



### *Club Spring Contest*

Goddard Toastmasters will have its Spring International Speech and Evaluation contests on March 14, 2012 in Rm E210, Bldg 28, at 11:30 AM. All members are invited to participate in the contest in different roles, as contestants, judges, Sgt-At-Arms, timer etc. All members in good standing are allowed to participate in the contest roles. To be eligible to compete in the International Speech Contest, a member must have completed at least six speech projects in the Competent Communication manual prior to the club contest. Contestants in evaluation contest do not need to meet this requirement.

### *Area Contest, Division Contest and District Spring Conference*

Our club is a part of Area 42, Division D and District 36. The contests take place in all levels. Area 42 contest will be held sometime towards the end of March. Division D contest will take place sometime in April and District 36 conference will take place from May 18-19. The time and place of the contests will be announced in due course. The winners of our club contest will be competing in the Area level and if they are successful in winning in Area level they have the chances to go higher and if they are lucky enough they can go to the final level to compete during Toastmasters International Convention in August.

### *The Goddard Toastmasters Club Is Turning 40!*

Our Goddard Toastmasters Club 40th Anniversary is February 2012. Toastmasters International® is an international organization with roots right here at Goddard; training and supporting Goddard employees for the past 40 years.

*Did You Know?*

Goddard Toastmasters holds regular meetings the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month (unless those days are holidays). A speak-a-thon is held if there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in the month. A speak-a-thon consists of only prepared speeches and the evaluation of those speeches. All of these meetings offer great opportunities to meet people outside of your every day group and improve your speaking skills in a friendly, non-threatening environment. Please attend the next meeting and see what we are all about!

**Welcome New Members**

Nylsevalis Ortizcollazo, Code 210  
Amy Forinash, Code 671  
Abby Daramola  
Seyi Hopewell  
Nicholas R. Collins, Code 667

**Club Election**

Club election will take place in May 2012 for the seven official positions to lead the club from July 2012 to June 2013. The seven positions are President, Vice President (VP) Education, Membership, Public Relations, Secretary, Treasurer and Sgt-At-Arms. Mr James Peachey, past president is the chairman of the Nominating Committee. We encourage members to send their nominations to James Peachy before the first meeting of May, i.e., May 9th.

If you are interested in volunteering for a position but do not know what the task involves, you may talk to the current official in the same position or explore more at the Toastmasters Training and Leadership Institute (TLI) training that is currently being held by the district.

*Club Officer Roles*

**President**

As president, you are responsible for providing the supportive club environment members need

to fulfill their self-development goals, making sure that members benefit from the Toastmasters educational program, and helping the club recruit new members and retain current ones.

**Vice President Education**

As vice president education, you are responsible for providing and maintaining the positive environment and the programs through which members can learn and grow. If you do your job well, your club will have satisfied members and will continue to grow.

**Vice President Membership**

As vice president membership, you are responsible for building membership and ensuring a strong membership base by satisfying the needs of all members. Your efforts contribute to the success of the club.

**Vice President Public Relations**

As vice president public relations, you are responsible for coordinating an active public relations and publicity program. Your job is vital to the growth and success of the club; your efforts help to attract new members.

**Secretary**

As secretary, you are responsible for keeping clear and accurate records of club business, including membership records and correspondence with Toastmasters International's World Headquarters and others.

**Treasurer**

As treasurer, you are responsible for keeping clear and accurate financial records of club business and for seeing that the club remains financially stable.

**Sergeant at Arms**

As the sergeant at arms, you are responsible for maintaining club properties, arranging the meeting room and welcoming members and guests at each meeting.

## Why You Should Become A Club Officer

**James Peachey, Immediate Past President**

"A club officer? Me? NEVER!" That was my attitude toward becoming a club officer two years ago. Since then I have served as Vice President Public Relations (VPPR), Vice President Education (VPE), and President, and I am very glad I changed my attitude.

The reasons I did not want to become an officer may sound familiar to you. It appeared to require a lot of work, time, and energy. It seemed like I was not as enthusiastic and vested in the club as the other officers. Some of them were in multiple clubs, and seemed far more dedicated than I could ever be to the Toastmaster ideals. Besides that, I did not really think of myself as a leader. How should I know what the club needs or how to achieve it?

Then I was nominated to become the Vice President Public Relations. I held back an instinctive answer of "no" and thought it through more carefully. Instead of thinking "why me?" I asked myself "why **not** me?" I found out about was required for the job, and it did not sound so bad. I remembered that I had found Goddard Toastmasters because of the advertisements that the VPPR places in Goddard's daily Dateline online newsletter. I realized that *someone* needed to do that job, and I thought about how much I benefit from being in the club. It seemed only right that I should help out, so ultimately I said "yes".

As VPPR, VPE, and President I have discovered the truth: being an officer does require some work, time, and energy, but it is well worth it! Serving as an officer has helped me become better organized and more focused in many aspects of my life. It has been fun and rewarding, and my fellow officers were and are a great team to work with. I encourage all members to consider running for one of the offices: Sergeant at Arms, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President (Public Relations, Membership or Education) or President. You can also nominate other members that you

think would be effective. Please contact President Ron Jones (Ronald.A.Jones@nasa.gov) or me (James.Peachey@nasa.gov) to volunteer, nominate, or for more information.

## Holiday Party on December 14th, 2011

**Bigyani Das, VP-Education**

Thanks to Toastmaster Esther Woodward for organizing the party. The party was organized in a very different manner. This type of experimentation is good for learning experience through "Reflective Practice". Although it was a party and there were colorful table cloths with decorated Christmas colors and varieties of food and soft drinks, there were also talks and a Thought of the Day.

Ron Jones welcomed everybody to the party and invited all to enjoy the food. He thanked Esther for organizing the party and thanked everybody for contributing food and their time. Thought of the day was presented by John Pearl on the topic "The Cold of Winter and the Warmth of Fellowship". John said, "Several mornings in the past week I have awakened to frost on the grass. In contrast to the warmth of this festive season, they bring to mind the chill of the coming winter. But nothing like the cold centennial we celebrate today. For it was on December 14, 1911, that Roald Amundsen's party of five reached the south pole. With dogteams and determination, these men had made the thousand mile trek across the ice in less than 4 months, to be followed by another 3 month trek back to base. So with that cold wind to our backs, let us enjoy the warmth and fellowship of this gathering today."

Two speeches were presented, by Bigyani Das and Marilyn Mack. Bigyani's speech was on the topic "Winter Festivities in Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India". During December several dance festivals and art festivals are organized in the capital city of Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India which draws a lot of people from around the world. A classical dance form "Odissi" has originated from Orissa and now has been adopted by many performing artists in the international arena.

## Let the Spirit Thrive

Marilyn's speech was on the religious significance of the month of December in religions such as Buddhism, Islam, Jewish and Christianity and she discussed about the enlightenment of the people with their beliefs. The party ended on time.



## First meeting of the year 2012!

The first meeting of the year held January 11, 2012 started with a very exciting spirit. With 11 members and 5 guests, the meeting had a full agenda. Nick Collins, the Sgt-At-Arms had the perfect set-up and the warm welcome by Ron Jones warmed up the environment. Bigyani Das was the TMOD and she had done her homework in collecting the information to creatively introduce the speakers. Two speeches were presented, by Terry Kucera on "A Childhood Time Capsule" from CC manual and by Marilyn Mack on "Why Buy" from Specialty Speeches Advanced Manual. Terry took us with her to her parent's old house in exploration of her and her sister's childhood and Marilyn, of course, prepared us for the upcoming allergy season by convincing us to buy the better style hand towels.

Table topics by Esther Woodward with role playing was another exciting event. Ron and Mary Harrison played in the roles of school principal and the parent, Crystal (guest) and Amy Forinash played in the roles of reckless driver and police officer, and Javier Ocasio-Perez and Pastor Abby Daramola played in the roles of customer and the manager at Macy's. Evaluators Ron and Mary were very motivating. The Grammarian Pat McHale, Whisker Counter Javier, and Time Keeper Nick were equally committed to their respective roles. The word of the day was "hypermnesia" and was used by almost everybody. The thought of the day was presented by Pat McHale. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.

## FUN:

